being a State subject, the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural areas are implemented by the State Governments. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

As per the information furnished by the State Government, out of 69732 rural habitations in Andhra Pradesh, 55056 are fully covered, 14676 are partially covered and there are no Not Covered habitations. Further, 14260 habitations are affected due to quality problem in drinking water. District wise details are not maintained at the Central Government level.

It is proposed to cover all rural habitations in the country with the facility of safe drinking water by April 2004, subject to availability of funds.

Techniques for water harvesting

868. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to devise techniques for water harvesting to aid farming;

(b) if so the measures taken in this regard;

(c) the amount expected to be incurred; and

(d) the funds proposed to be allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Various rainwater harvesting techniques have been traditionally used in all parts of the country. Innovations according to local conditions are constantly made by the farming community. The Departments of Land Resources and Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development have been supporting construction of water harvesting structures as an important component of their watershed development and drinking water supply schemes.

(c) and (d) Water harvesting structures is one of the components of Integrated Watershed Development projects which is to be taken up in accordance with the local situation and need. Hence, no separate budget allocation is made specifically for this component.

Assistance to Karnataka to revive rural water supply.schemes

869. SHRI K. B. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sought Central assistance of Rs. 80.51 crores to revive and rejuvenate rural water supply scherries; and

(b) if so, what is the present status of the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka had submitted a contingent action plan amounting to Rs. 80.51 crores to mitigate drinking water problem in the rural areas of 154 drought affected Taluks in 24 districts. However, *vide* letter no. R.D. P.R. Secy/5337/02 dated 1 st October, 2002 Government of Karnataka has revised the need to Rs. 11.55 crore.

(b) A Central Team was deputed by the Government of India to assess the drought situation in Karnataka. The inter-Ministerial Group bedded by Secretary (Agriculture), Government of India recommended (a) release of Rs. 10 crore from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) and (b) release of Rs. 157.68 lakh from 5% of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) earmarked for natural calamities and emergent conditions. Rs. 157.68 lakh have been released to the State Government towards additional Central assistance to meet the rural drinking water supply requirement arising due to drought situation in the State during 2002-2003, out of 5% of the total Central Rural Water Supply Outlay earmarked for contingencies arising due to natural calamities/disaster.

Financial assistance for rural development schemes

870. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to release Financial assistance to State Governments to launch Rural Development Schemes especially in the backward districts of our country, and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds earmarked for this scheme, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government propose to launch a new Scheme, namely, Jai Prakash Rozgar Guarantee Yojana (JPRG Y) to provide employment guarantee to the rural poor in the most backward districts of the country. The details of the Scheme, including allocation of funds, have not been finalised.